

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2006-06

Authorizing Increased National Guard Assistance at the Border

WHEREAS, estimated annual illegal immigration over the Sonora-Mexico border has increased nearly five fold since the 1980s and more unauthorized immigrants now enter the United States through Arizona than through any other state; and

WHEREAS, with the increase in unauthorized immigrants, there has been a corresponding increase in the threat to public health and safety from gangs, coyotes and others engaged in dangerous criminal activities in Arizona, and Arizona's border communities have suffered damages to vegetation, wildlife, livestock and personal property as a result of repeated trespasses; and

WHEREAS, illegal immigration has also resulted in the deaths of hundreds of unauthorized immigrants in our deserts, and the number is likely to increase as summer approaches; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, I issued a Declaration of Emergency on August 15, 2005 to free up additional state resources to help counter the deleterious effects of illegal immigration; and

WHEREAS, since at least 1988, the Arizona National Guard has had a presence at the border and has assisted in border-related activities, including air surveillance, building and maintaining fences and assisting local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, since issuing the Declaration of Emergency, I have repeatedly sought federal assistance -- including through direct appeals to the United States Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security and Congress -- for funding an increased National Guard presence on the Arizona-Mexico border to assist Border Patrol and local law enforcement in dealing with effects of the large number of illegal crossings; and

WHEREAS, despite my efforts, the federal government so far has failed to act upon these requests to fund an increased National Guard presence and role at the border, and

WHEREAS, Arizona can no longer continue to wait for such federal assistance and must begin doing what it can with existing state resources to bolster the National Guard's presence at the border;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, by virtue of the powers vested in me as Governor by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, do hereby order as follows:

1. Immediately upon approval of funding by the federal government or the Arizona legislature (through a duly enacted appropriation) to cover the costs associated with the activities contemplated by this Executive Order, the Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard is directed to deploy additional members of the National Guard for immediate service on border-related activities including, as appropriate, the following:

- Staffing stations at border crossing points and assisting with cargo and vehicle inspections and electronic identification checks;
 - Assisting Department of Public Safety officers assigned to check vehicles going from Arizona to Mexico;
 - Augmenting Arizona's Engineering IRT program by assigning members to do maintenance and repair projects supporting Border Patrol;
 - Providing assistance to local law enforcement agencies; and
 - Analyzing intelligence and screening information about the activities of unauthorized immigrants, and disseminating it to law enforcement agencies.
2. The Arizona Departments of Public Safety ("DPS") and Homeland Security ("DHS") are hereby directed to meet with the Adjutant General and develop memoranda of understanding to use existing DPS and DHS resources to assist the National Guard in the foregoing border-related activities.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 8th day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirtieth.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE